

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**THIRD HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY:
PREPARATIONS AND OUTLOOK**

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This paper provides information on preparations for the Third High-level Conference on Aviation Security (HLCAS/3), to be convened at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal in April 2027. HLCAS/3 is intended to provide high-level strategic direction for the future evolution of the global aviation security system in response to a changing threat, technological and operating environment. Preparatory work is underway to develop a focused and outcome-driven agenda for the Conference. A proposed agenda is being developed around issues relating to the future direction and assurance of the global aviation security system, modernization and capability development, and strengthened resilience to global security risks. The proposed agenda remains subject to further consultation with Member States and consideration by the ICAO Council.

THIRD HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY: PREPARATIONS AND OUTLOOK

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly supported the convening of the Third High-level Conference on Aviation Security (HLCAS/3) during the 2026–2028 triennium. The ICAO Council subsequently approved the convening of HLCAS/3 at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal during the week commencing 12 April 2027, as a three-day high-level event, with the exact dates to be confirmed.

1.2 The Conference will provide an opportunity for Ministers, Directors General and other high-level officials to consider how the global aviation security system should evolve to remain effective, resilient and sustainable in an increasingly complex operating environment.

1.3 Effective aviation security is not only essential to protecting civil aviation. It also underpins confidence, connectivity and economic activity. When security risks are effectively managed, aviation can operate more predictably, passengers and industry have greater confidence, supply chains remain open, and States are better positioned to benefit from tourism, trade and economic growth. Conversely, security disruption can quickly lead to operational restrictions, increased costs and reduced connectivity.

2. A FORWARD-LOOKING CONFERENCE

2.1 HLCAS/3 is being developed as an outcome-driven Conference focused on strategic choices and policy direction rather than detailed technical solutions. Conference outcomes are expected to help guide subsequent ICAO work, including implementation support and, where appropriate, future development of ICAO provisions, guidance and global programmes. This reflects the approach currently being developed for Council consideration.

2.2 Preparatory work has moved beyond consideration of broad themes towards development of a more integrated Conference agenda. The emerging framework seeks to connect the future direction of global aviation security with the practical capabilities needed by States and industry and with the need for greater collective resilience to current and emerging risks.

2.3 In this context, the proposed agenda under development is organized around three mutually supporting areas:

- a) **steering and assuring a trusted global aviation security system**, including the future evolution of ICAO's USAP-CMA and the Global Aviation Security Plan;
- b) **enabling more secure, seamless and sustainable aviation**, including modernization of aviation security, technology, risk-based approaches, workforce and aviation cybersecurity; and
- c) **strengthening resilience and protecting global connectivity**, including risks arising from conflict, cyber threats, unmanned aircraft systems, GNSS radio-frequency interference, and threats affecting air cargo and mail.

3. PREPARATORY PROCESS

3.1 Consultation with Member States forms an important part of the preparatory process. A State letter is being prepared to seek views on the proposed agenda, the principal issues requiring high-

level consideration and the outcomes that HLCAS/3 should seek to deliver. Feedback received will be used to refine the scope, emphasis and intended outputs of the individual agenda items.

3.2 The proposed agenda and broader Conference arrangements are expected to be considered by the ICAO Council at its 239th Session. Accordingly, the agenda elements described in this paper should be regarded as **work in progress and without prejudice to the Council's consideration**.

3.3 Further preparations will continue through consultation with States and relevant ICAO expert groups, including the Aviation Security Panel (AVSECP) and Cybersecurity Panel (CYSECP), as well as through technical and organizational planning. The objective is to ensure that HLCAS/3 remains focused on issues requiring high-level direction and produces conclusions capable of being translated into subsequent ICAO work and implementation.

4. RELEVANCE TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

4.1 The Asia and Pacific Region has a particularly important role in this discussion given the diversity, scale and continued growth of its aviation systems. Issues under consideration for HLCAS/3, including technological modernization, cybersecurity, secure and seamless passenger processing, risks affecting international operations, cargo and mail security, and implementation capacity have direct relevance across the Region.

4.2 The participation and perspectives of Asia and Pacific States will therefore be important in ensuring that the future direction of global aviation security reflects differing national circumstances and capabilities while supporting secure connectivity, trade, tourism and continued aviation growth.

5. LOOKING AHEAD

5.1 HLCAS/3 is intended to provide a strategic outlook for the next phase of global aviation security and a focused set of high-level conclusions and recommendations. The Conference provides an opportunity to ensure that aviation security continues to provide effective protection while also enabling confidence, connectivity, efficiency and sustainable growth.

5.2 Further information on the Conference, including the final agenda, exact dates and documentation arrangements, will be communicated following completion of the ongoing preparatory and governance processes.

6. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

6.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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